



Welcomed

**“UNITY, NOT DIVISION”**

**OCTOBER 6, 2024**



**ST. JOHN'S**  
Lutheran Church  
Grounded • Growing • Branching

## **Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church**

Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! It is an honor to have you worshiping with us this morning and we pray that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness!

At St. John's we are pleased to offer two styles of worship services on Sunday morning. In our 8:30 a.m. traditional service, we offer familiar hymns and rich, traditional worship forms in a meaningful and inspirational setting. Our 11:00 a.m. contemporary service includes the same message as our 8:30 a.m. service, but in an informal style, enhanced with contemporary music. We encourage you to try both worship styles! Thank you for worshiping with us; we would love to have you join us again!

*(If you need assistance or need a hearing aid device, please see one of the ushers.)*

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### **The Lord's Supper**

Though we are eager for all to participate fully in the Lord's Supper, we do not want to compromise any portion of God's Word among us. Because Scripture states that the Lord's Supper can be taken to one's spiritual harm if not properly understood, we ask all visitors to refer to the following statement of belief regarding the Lord's Supper before communing:

*I am truly sorry for the sin in my life. I am struggling to die to my sin and to live in faith in Jesus. I am looking to Jesus to empower me to stop my sinning and to live a new life in Him. I believe when I receive the bread, I am receiving the true body of Christ, and when I receive the wine, I am receiving the true blood of Jesus. I believe that when I receive His true body and blood my sins are forgiven, I am given power over sin, death and the devil, and the gift of eternal life. My faith is completely in the words of Jesus.*

The Lord's Supper offers the two-fold gift of forgiveness and peace with God on the one hand, and unity and oneness among those who commune together on the other hand (Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17). Those who receive the body and the blood of the Lord do so in terms of their relationship with God as well as with their fellow-communicants. Therefore, all baptized believers who understand and agree with the above Lutheran teaching of the Lord's Supper are welcome to attend. As always, we encourage you to speak with Pastor Ray or Pastor Aaron with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Disabled – The pastor and lay minister will gladly commune anyone unable to come to the communion rail. Let the pastor or an usher know before the service begins.

# TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 6, 2024

*Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, Branching to Others*

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## WELCOME & GREETING

## OPENING SONG

*The Church's One Foundation (Vs. 1-4)*

LSB 644

## INVOCATION

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.*

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

L: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant

of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**KYRIE** (*responses sung*)

**THIS IS THE FEAST** (*sung*)

**SALUTATION**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

*Old Testament*

*Genesis 2:18-25*

<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." <sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*New Testament*

*Hebrews 2:1-18*

Therefore, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. <sup>2</sup> For since the message declared by angels proved

to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,<sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,<sup>4</sup> while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.<sup>5</sup> For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.<sup>6</sup> It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?"<sup>7</sup> You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor,<sup>8</sup> putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.<sup>9</sup> But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.<sup>10</sup> For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.<sup>11</sup> For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,<sup>12</sup> saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."<sup>13</sup> And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me."<sup>14</sup> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,<sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.<sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.<sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.<sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

### **Holy Gospel**

*Mark 10:2-16*

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (*sung*)

And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"<sup>3</sup> He answered them, "What did Moses command you?"<sup>4</sup> They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away."<sup>5</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.<sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'<sup>7</sup> 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife,<sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh.'<sup>9</sup> What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."<sup>10</sup> And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter.<sup>11</sup> And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her,<sup>12</sup> and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."<sup>13</sup> And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them.<sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.<sup>15</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."<sup>16</sup> And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (*sung*)

## **SERMON**

*"Unity, not Division"*

*Mark 10:2-16*

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

## **NICENE CREED**

## **OFFERING**

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at  
[www.stjohnsdecatur.com/giving](http://www.stjohnsdecatur.com/giving).*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*The Leader will conclude every prayer with: "Lord in your mercy..."*

***People respond with: "Hear our prayer."***

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**PREFACE** (*responses sung*)

## **PROPER PREFACE**

**SANCTUS** (*sung*)

## **WORDS OF OUR LORD**

## **PAX DOMINI**

**AGNUS DEI** (*sung*)

## **DISTRIBUTION**

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	LSB 621
Alleluia! Let Praises Ring	LSB 822
The Lord, My God, Be Praised	LSB 794

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

### **SENDING HYMN**

<i>Go, My Children, With My Blessing</i>	<i>LSB 922</i>
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## **POSTLUDE**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**OCTOBER 6, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.**

**OPENING SONGS**

*Sing To The King*

*Grace So Florious*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

*Awesome God*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Mark 10:2-16*

**SERMON**

*"Unity, not Division"*

*Mark 10:2-16*

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

*He Is*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

*For All You've Done*



## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader .....	Wilma Golembeck
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Troy Harrison 11:00 – Mike Baggett
Communion Helper .....	David Salogga/Kevin Tavarczyk
Organist .....	Sharon Cripe
Ushers .....	8:30 – LWML Ladies 11:00 – LWML Ladies
Computer .....	8:30 – Ted Hesse 11:00 – Ellie Hesse
Live Stream .....	8:30 – Eric Brown
Camera .....	8:30 – Eric Brown
Sound .....	8:30 – John Salogga 11:00 – John Salogga
Vocals.....	Pam Saurmann, Lindsay Tipsword, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar .....	Wendy Salefski
Drums .....	Julia Cushing
Piano.....	Angela Cushing

**OUR MISSION** We are restored to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus. As a family of Christians, we are dedicated to the love and forgiveness of Christ as we reach out, preach and teach the truth of God's Word to each other, our community and the world.

**IN NEED OF PRAYER:** If you would like to be added to the prayer list or the prayer chain, please contact the church office. Please call the prayer chain with an update of your prayer request.

**IN THE MILITARY:** Laura Byers, Bryon Chaney, Kimberly Chaney, Kristel Chaney, Travis Chaney, Dan Cheney, Tristin Comer, Randy Edwards, Caleb Goodson, Austin Highcock, Braden Highcock, Destiny Little, Noah Lung, Nathan Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Goodson, Tyler Salefski, Jacob Thornell

## CONGREGATION NEWS

**Fall Festival is this Sunday,** October 6th from 4-6 p.m. Come play some games, decorate a pumpkin and engage in some good ole' Fall Festival fun! This event will be great for families of all ages and will be an easy opportunity to invite friends or neighbors that you are seeking to build relationships within our community.

**T-Shirt!** Show your St. John's love by wearing one of our new shirt designs. You can order a short or long-sleeved t-shirt by filling out the order form in the back of the sanctuary. Leave your order form in the church office by October 6.

**Blood Drive:** St John's is sponsoring a blood drive from 12:00 to 5:00 PM on October 10, 2024. Donors will receive instructions about claiming a gift card from one of the following: Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, Target, Home Depot, Lowe's, or Subway. Sign up after the 8:30 or before the 11 am services on 9/22, 9/29 or 10/6 Other sign-up options include ImpactLife at 800-747- 5401 or online at [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org). Please bring a photo ID October 10. ImpactLife is the sole supplier of blood to DMH and St. Mary's. The need is real. Please consider a donation.

**Special Door Offering:** We will have a Special Door Offering next Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> for Camp Linn Haven and Mountainside Lutheran Church, Linville, North Carolina. The camp experienced heavy damage from Hurricane Helene. Our youth took a mission trip there a few years back.

**October is Pastor Appreciation Month!** Join us in appreciating our pastors by mailing cards and well wishes to Pastor Adam & Pastor Aaron.

**The Friendship Circle** meeting will be on Tues., Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be crafting for a cause. We will be making heating pads for the patients at the Cancer Care Center. We also will assemble tea bag favors for the women who attend the LWML salad supper. Join us in the fellowship hall at 1:00.

**Special Voter's Meeting** on Sun., Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

**LWML Decatur Salad Supper** will be on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Women from all Decatur congregations are invited for an evening of food and fellowship. Our guest speaker will be Patti Krueger, a Decatur mother whose children were removed from their home when a son's rare genetic condition was ignored, and his parents were accused of abuse or faking illness. She will tell us about how they fought to regain custody of their children. Attendees are asked to bring a salad to share and a package of plastic spoons to donate to Good Samaritan Inn.

**The Altar Guild committee** is looking for volunteers to help set up for communion. If you are interested, please contact LuAnne Westbrook 217-433-2677 or Jill Davis 217-433-4529.

**Ride to Church needed:** We have a member needing a ride to the 8:30 a.m. service. They live off of Mound and Woodford St. Please contact the church office if you are available to do this.

**LSA ReSale Shop:** A BIG thank you to all the volunteers who helped with our fall/winter restock at the LSA ReSale Shop. Please stop by the ReSale Shop and see the "new" fall/winter merchandise. There is a great selection of Halloween and Christmas items too. The shop, located at 421 E. Cerro Gordo is open Mon.–Sat., 9am –3pm with extended hours on Thurs. 9am–6pm. Follow us on the LSA ReSale Shop Facebook page.

**Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$5,905.00
Online Giving.....	\$915.96
Total Giving.....	\$6,820.96

**Last Week's Attendance**

8:30 a.m. ....	116
11:00 a.m. ....	53
Total.....	169

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Voter's Meeting (FH)  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service  
4-6:00 P.M. .... Fall Festival

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

6:30 P.M. .... Properties Meeting (Rock)  
7:00 P.M. .... Boy Scouts (FH)

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

10:00 A.M. .... DMH Grief Support Group (Lounge)  
1:00 P.M. .... Staff Meeting  
6:30 P.M. .... Lay Ministry Meeting (FH)

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

10:00 A.M. .... Adult Bible Study (FH)  
6:00 P.M. .... Choir Practice  
6:30 P.M. .... Youth Group Hangout (Cushing House)

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

12:00 – 5:00 P.M. .... Blood Drive (FH)  
5:30 P.M. .... TOPS (Rock)  
7:00 P.M. .... Worship Practice

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

No church activities scheduled.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

No church activities scheduled.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

8:30 A.M. .... Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. .... Education Hour (FH)  
11:00 A.M. .... Contemporary Service  
12:30 P.M. .... Confirmation Class (FH)